1. Description

This course will examine the history of the English language. Our exploration will take us through dramatic changes that have made Old English barely recognizable to modern-day English speakers. We'll begin with an overview of the elements of any linguistic system - sounds, words, and grammar - and principles of language change. We then trace the development of Old English from its roots in the Germanic branch of the Indo-European language family, and through to the subsequent periods of English language history: Middle English, Early Modern English, and Modern English. Students will acquire familiarity with changes in linguistic structure across these time periods, as well as the social contexts and historical events that influenced the language and its speakers.

2. Required Texts


HEL will serve as our primary text for understanding linguistic changes in the language, as well as a source for homework and in-class exercises. SOE chapters will provide more historical and social grounding for the changes we discuss, as well as some more detailed case studies of particular features of the language. Both books include technical material that you may not immediately understand. You will not be able to remember everything the books say from one reading, and I don’t expect you to. Approach the reading with a genuine openness and curiosity about the English language, and do your best to absorb what you can. Note what confuses you and come ready to class to ask questions about it. **You must do the readings to succeed in this class. Always bring HEL with you; bring SOE with you on days that it's assigned.**

The companion site to HEL: http://historyofenglish.net

3. Course Requirements

The class is worth 100 points, distributed as follows:

- Exams - 50
- Etymology Project - 15
- Group Project / Slideshow - 20
- Homework - 10
- Participation - 5
4. Course Requirement Descriptions

Exams
Old English - 15
Middle English - 15
Early Modern / Modern / Dialects / Global English - 20

The first two exams will be open-notes. The final exam will be closed, but you may bring one 3x5 index card with any information you wish written on it (front and back).

Etymology Project
At the beginning of the semester you'll choose one word to track over the history of English. You will conduct research, using the OED and other online dictionaries/corpora where relevant, to address the word's evolution within the language. For each of the four major time periods of English you should find information about the following: Was the word in the language at that time, and where did it come from (Germanic, French, Latin...)? If the word itself was not in the language yet, was a predecessor? What did the word mean at that time? What are some examples? How do historical events over time help you understand changes (or consistency) in the word's meaning? By the end of the semester you'll have material to combine into a paper tracking the word's history and usage (4 pages). Everyone will also do one brief in-class presentation about their word (these will be spread out over the course of the semester).

Paper - 10 points
Presentation - 5 points

Group Project Slideshow
You will work with a small group to create a slideshow for the Language Pod at the Center of Science and Industry in downtown Columbus. The slideshow should encapsulate the primary features of interest for English history, in a way that is accessible to an everyday audience (visitors at the science museum!). We'll have an in-class slides show-and-tell for each group to present their slides, and the class will vote on the set to represent the class at COSI. You'll learn something and be able to share it with the public. You'll also write up your thinking behind the slides. More details to follow.

Slides - 10 points
Presentation - 5 points
Write-up - 5 points

Homework
We'll have >4 homework assignments over the course of the semester. Each assignment will be worth 3 points (3 = excellent, 2 = good, 1 = insufficient). Your total at the end will be combined from all the assignments (so there should be no reason not to receive all 10 points). We will often use class time to discuss the homework either in small groups or with the whole class.

Participation
These aren't giveaway points. Please come to class ready to engage with the material, with me, and with each other.

In-class Quizzes (ungraded)
We will frequently have quizzes in class that will serve to help me (and you) assess your state of knowledge/understanding of the material. These will be ungraded and unannounced.
5. Grading Scale

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6. Other Class Policies and Resources

**My core expectations: CARE**
- Communication: Let me know how the class is going; let me know what you need to succeed.
- Attendance: Come to class! Don't text message in class!
- Responsibility: Do the work on time and to the best of your ability.
- Engagement: Participate; make friends; respect me and each other; challenge yourself.

**Attendance**
You have 2 unexcused absences (1 week) without penalty. Your final grade will drop by 2 points for each unexcused absence after that. An absence will also be counted any time you are more than 20 minutes late to class. Excused absences, such as those for documented illness, family tragedy, religious observance, or travel for inter-collegiate athletics, will not affect your grade; please notify me immediately and provide documentation if such events arise.

**Classroom Community**
This class will be interactive and collaborative, and everyone should feel welcome and safe. Be respectful of and generous to your classmates. Please tell me if anything is keeping you from benefiting fully from the class, or if you ever feel uncomfortable because of something I or one of your classmates have done.

**Academic Honesty**
*Plagiarism* is the unauthorized use of the words or ideas of another person. It is a serious academic offense that can result in referral to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. Please remember that at no point during the writing process should the work of others be presented as your own.

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct.

**Technology**
Take a break from your screens! You will be dismissed from class if I see you using a cell phone or laptop or tablet or whatever for anything other than course work. **If you plan to use a laptop to take notes for class, kindly inform me the first week.**
**Course Work**
I simply will not accept late work unless I clear it in advance for a good reason.

**Class Cancellation**
In the event that an emergency arises and I must cancel class last-minute, I will contact you by email as soon as possible, and inform the English department main office.

**Accommodations**
The Office for Disability Services provides services to any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability. Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; OSU Office for Disability Services Web Site.

**The OSU Writing Center**
Free, professional writing tutoring and consultation. You may set up an appointment by calling 688-4291 or by dropping by the center at 475 Mendenhall Laboratories. If you are interested in on-line writing advice, visit the OWL (On-Line Writing Lab) at www.cstw.osu.edu. You can also visit the Younkin Success Center in Building 052 at 1640 Neil Ave. You can walk in without an appointment.

**Counseling and Consultation Services**
A wide range of resources for undergraduate students. For more information call 292-5766.

**Student Advocacy Center**
Empowers students to overcome obstacles to their growth both inside and outside the classroom, and to help them maximize their educational experience while pursuing their degrees at The Ohio State University. The SAC is open Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM. You can visit them in person at 1120 Lincoln Tower, call at (614) 292-1111, email advocacy@osu.edu, or visit their website: http://studentlife.osu.edu/advocacy/

**Walter E. Dennis Learning Center**
Provides learning support in study skills, time management, goal-setting, etc. Offers workshops and individual consultations. Open Monday-Friday, 8 AM-5 PM. Located at 250 Younkin Success Center, 1640 Neil Ave. Phone: 614-688-4011. Email: wedlc@osu.edu. Website: http://dennislearningcenter.osu.edu